

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 11-21, 28-34 and 38-55 are all of the pending claims, with claims 1, 28, 38, 45, 49, 52 and 53 being written in independent form.

The Examiner continues to reject claims 1, 2, 4-7, 12-21, 28, 29, 31-34, 38, 39, 41-46 and 48-53 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,777,917 to Desprez et al. (“Desprez”); and claims 3, 11, 30, 40, 47, 54 and 55 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Desprez in view of US 6,841,971 to Spee et al. (“Spee”). Applicants respectfully traverse all of these rejections in view of the following remarks.

To more clearly define over the asserted references, Applicants amend independent claims 1, 28, 38, 45, 49, 52 and 53 to recite that the balancing of “*each capacitor*” occurs in two voltage ranges that are separated from each other. Straightforward support for this feature can be found through the instant specification. See paragraph [0012], for example. The prior art relied upon by the Examiner is simply not pertinent.

The Examiner continues to rely heavily upon the Desprez reference to teach each and every feature of the invention defined by the independent claims. Apparently persuaded by the previous traversal arguments (as set forth in the April 3, 2006 Amendment), the Examiner (for the first time) now relies on Fig. 2 of Desprez to teach voltage ranges that are separated from each other. In so doing, the Examiner concludes that the six different output voltages V_1 to V_6 corresponds to voltage ranges that are “separated from each other” because they are functions of separate bypass circuits 12₁ to 12₆ and super capacitors 11₁ to 11₆, respectively. This rejection position is not convincing for a couple of reasons.

With reference to Fig. 2 of Desprez, the output voltages V_1 to V_6 (which are respectively generated by filter 13₁ to 13₆) are combined in a detector unit 14 to generate logic functions F_0 and F_1 that are used to control the charger 15. As described at col. 5 (lines 62+), the function F_0 changes states (1) if any one of the voltages V_1 to V_6 exceeds a first predefined voltage V_{OH} , and (2) if all of the voltages V_1 to V_6 falls below a second predefined voltage V_{OB} . This straightforward disclosure demonstrates that the output voltages V_1 to V_6 assume values within a single voltage range (or perhaps values in multiple and overlapping voltage ranges). If this were not the case, then the intended state changes of the function F_0 would not (and necessarily could not) be achieved.

Turning to the next point, and for argument sake only, even if the output voltages V_1 to V_6 could be properly considered as two ranges that are separated from each other, Desprez would still not meet each and every feature of the invention defined by the independent claims. This is because the output voltages V_1 to V_6 are respectively associated with separate and distinct capacitors. This is in contrast to the independent claims reciting that the balancing of “*each capacitor*” occurs in two voltage ranges that are separated from each other.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims recite features that are practically and conceptually different than Desprez. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdrawal the raised anticipation rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant earnestly solicits reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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